

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 10420 221539Z  
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01  
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00  
EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01  
INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
NSF-01 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /148 W  
-----074797 230207Z /13

R 221510Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 174  
INFO USUN NEW YORK 3018  
AMCONSUL KADUNA  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 10420

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PLOS, NI  
SUBJECT: NIGERIA PLANNING TO DECLARE 200 MILE ZONE

REF: 76 YAOUNDE 2835

1. MAJOR NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON  
AUGUST 22 AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE, DR.  
AUGUSTINE NNAMANI THAT FMG WILL SOON ISSUE AN  
EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE DECREE EXTENDING  
NIGERIA'S JURISDICTION TO 200 NAUTICAL MILES  
"MEASURED FROM THE BASE LINE OF THE TERRITORIAL  
WATER." NNAMANI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE  
DECREE WOULD GIVE NIGERIA "ABSOLUTE RIGHT OVER  
THE SEABEDS, SUB-SOIL AND SUPER ADJACENT WATERS  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLORING AND EXPLOITING ALL  
THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND WITHIN."

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 10420 221539Z

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE DURING AN  
UNCHARACTERISTIC PRESS BRIEFING ON LAW  
OF THE SEA SHORTLY BEFORE LEAVING TO ATTEND  
THE LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. IN DISCUSSING  
NIGERIA'S LOS POSITIONS, ER. NNAMANI SAID, "WITH  
RESPECT

SEA-BED MINING, THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOR-  
OITED AND EXPLOITATION, THE RESOURCES POLICY,  
AND PRODUCTION CONTROL SHOULD HAVE IN-BUILT  
CHECKS. THIS WOULD ENSURE NON-FLOODING OF THE  
MAKRET WITH MINERALS, SO THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
WHO ARE LANDBASED PRODUCERS ON THE SAME MINERAL  
ARE NOT DRIVEN OUT OF THE MARKET." DR.  
NNAMANI ALSO SAID THAT NIGERIA'S POSITION ON THE  
RIGHTS OF LAND-LOCKED GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED  
STATES IN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONES (EEZ) IS THAT  
COASTAL STATES SHOULD CONCEDE PARTICIPATION BY  
OTHER STATES IN THE SURPLUSE OF THE LIVING RESOURCES  
IN THE EEZ BUT NOT IN THE NON-LIVING RESOURCES.  
HE SAID NIGERIA'S STAND ON SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES  
IS THAT ANY SYSTEM OF ADJUDICATION WHICH WOULD  
COMPULSORILY UNDERMINE THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF  
COASTAL STATES WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. ACCORDING  
TO NNAMANI, NIGERIA FAVORS THE MEDIAN OR  
EQUIDISTANCE LINE OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES BETWEEN  
ADJACENT AND OPPOSITE STATES ON THE SETTLEMENT  
OF DISPUTES. THIS IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE STATES, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION  
OTHER AND EQUITABLE RELEVANT FACTORS.

3. COMMENT: MEA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR AWOKOYA INFORMED  
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 10420 221539Z

POLCOUNS THAT MEA COMMISSIONER ADEFOPE WILL LEAVE  
SEPTEMBER 1 TO ATTEND LOS CONFERENCE. ON  
DELEGATION'S RETURN WE WILL ATTEMPT TO GET MORE  
INFORMATION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NIGERIAN  
MOVE TO 200 MILE JURISDICTION. AN OBVIOUS  
COROLLARY WILL BE THE NEED TO NEGOTIATE MARITIME  
BOUNDARIES.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DAILY TIMES RECENTLY  
(AUGUST 16) DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE  
NIGERIAN-CAMEROONIAN BORDER AS ONE OF "UNEASY  
CALM." ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, "THE  
CAMEROONIAN GENDARMES HAVE FOR SOME TIME NOW BEEN  
COMMITTING ATROCITIES AGAINST NIGERIAN FISHERMEN  
ON THE BOARDER. AS A RESULT, THE SITUATION HAS BEEN  
TENSE AND ONLY THE COOL-HEADEDNESS OF THE  
NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL AND THE MATURITY  
OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE WARDED OFF POSSIBLE  
ARMED CLASHES." AS FAR AS WE KNOW THE PRESENT  
MARITIME BOUNDARY (INVOLVING 30 MILE CLAIM BY  
NIGERIA AND 50 MILE CLAIM BY CAMEROON) IS STILL  
NOT SETTLED (REFTEL). PRESUMABLY NIGERIA'S NEW

CLAIM WILL JUSTIFY STARTING AGAIN FROM SCRATCH.  
WYMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW OF THE SEA, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LAGOS10420  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION DLOS  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 YAOUNDE 2835  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 1663229  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIGERIA PLANNING TO DECLARE 200 MILE ZONE  
**TAGS:** PLOS, NI  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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